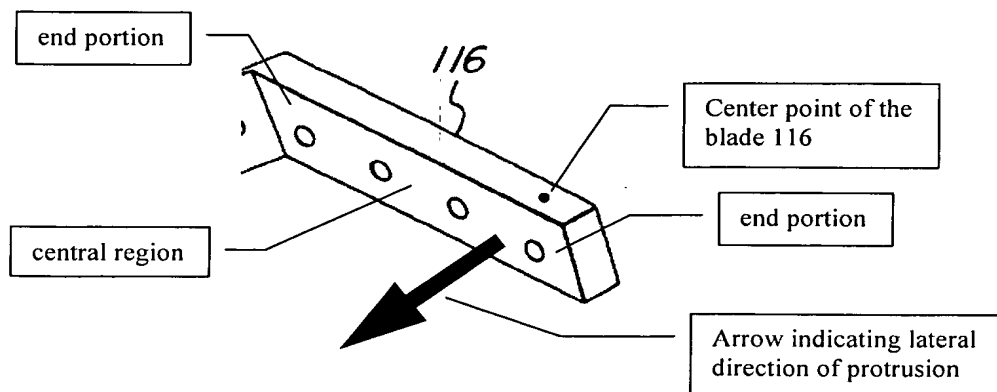


REMARKS

Claims 1-23, 25, and 38-49 were pending after entry of the February 17, 2006 Supplemental Amendment. By this Second Supplemental Amendment, claim 42 is amended and new claims 50-54 are added. These new claims are fully supported by at least originally filed claims 1-4, FIGS. 6-8(b), and/or paragraphs [0030]-[0033] of the originally filed specification.

Applicants' Attorney wishes to express his appreciation to Examiner Nguyen for the courtesy of a personal interview on March 1, 2006. Applicants appreciate Examiner Nguyen's agreement during the interview that pending claims 40 and 45 appear to overcome the combination of Sederberg (U.S. Patent No. 5,992,023) and Morikawa (U.S. Patent No. 5,339,525).

During the interview, claim 1 was also discussed. As previously stated on page 11 of Applicants' December 29, 2005 Response, Applicants asserted that independent claims 1, 5, and 14 were novel and non-obvious because Morikawa and Sederberg failed, either alone or in combination, to disclose a combination that includes, among other recitations, that "each said tip portion protrude[es] laterally with respect to said central region in the direction of a first side of said" "body"(claims 1 and 5) or "insert body"(claim 14). During the interview, the Examiner asserted that Sederberg discloses tip portions protruding laterally with respect to a central region. In particular, as shown in the below excerpt of FIG. 14 of Sederberg, which Applicants annotated to illustrate the Examiner's position, the Examiner asserted that the end portions of blade 116 protrude laterally (i.e., in the direction of the arrow shown below) with respect to said central region by protruding laterally with respect to a center point of the blade (indicated below by a point).



**Examiner Nguyen's Interpretation of FIG. 14
of Sederberg (U.S. Pat. No. 5,992,023)**

Applicants strenuously disagree with the Examiner's interpretation of Sederberg. The end portions of Sederberg's blade 116 are laterally coextensive with the central region of the blade 116. While the end portions of the blade 116 protrude laterally with respect to the Examiner's identified central point of the end portions, the end portions do not "protrud[e] laterally with respect to said central region," as recited in independent claims 1, 5, and 14. Accordingly, neither Sederberg nor Morikawa nor their combination disclose or suggest the combinations of recitations in independent claims 1, 5, and 14. Applicants therefore respectfully request the withdrawal of the obviousness rejection of claims 1, 5 and 14. Dependent claims 2-4, 6-11, 15-20, 40-41, and 50-54 are also allowable at least because they depend from patentable independent claims 1, 5, and 14.

During the interview, the Examiner agreed that claim 1 would appear to overcome the combination of Sederberg and Morikawa if amended to recite "each said tip portion protruding laterally with respect to a surface of said central region." Applicants assert that this amendment would be superfluous because it does not change the scope of claim 1. However, to expedite prosecution of the present application, Applicants have amended independent claim 42 to include this recitation. New dependent claims 50, 52, and 54 depend from independent claims 1, 5, and 14, and also recite this recitation.

Applicants respectfully request allowance of pending claims 1-23, 25, and 38-54.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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